

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 02226 241642Z  
ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /034 W  
-----102765 250353Z/20

R 241510Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1181  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL SAN JOSE 2226

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINR, CS, PORG  
SUBJ: COSTA RICAN AMBASSADOR TO UN RODOLFO PIZA

1. RODOLFO PIZA ESCALANTE, COSTA RICA'S NEW AMBASSADOR TO THE UN, IS A NOTED LAWYER, UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR, AND EX-DEPUTY (1974-78) IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. HE HAS HELD A VARIETY OF GOVERNMENTAL POSITIONS INCLUDING ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL AND CHIEF OF CONSULAR DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE HAS COUNTED AMONG HIS LAW FIRM'S CLIENTS THE UNITED FRUIT COMPANY AND A NUMBER OF OTHER MULTINATIONALS.

2. PIZA, 48, WAS EDUCATED IN COSTA RICA AND IN SPAIN, WHERE HE HAS AN MA AND A PHD IN LAW FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MADRID. HE IS FLUENT IN ENGLISH. HIS WIFE, MARIA DEL CARMEN ROCAFORT MARIN, IS SPANISH. THEY HAVE 5 CHILDREN, ONE OF WHOM STUDIES IN NEW YORK. MRS PIZA ALSO SPEAKS ENGLISH.

3. PIZA HAS THE REPUTATION OF BEING SOMEWHAT CONTROVERSIAL. HE IS OUTSPOKEN. HE HAS A TMEPER. HE IS A VERY GOOD SPEAKER. HE TAKES ON ISSUES ON PRINCIPLE--HE WAS ONE OF THE DEFENDERS OF A COSTA RICAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT, ADMITTEDLY A COMMUNIST, WHO WAS JAILED IN NICARAGUA (PIZA IS AN AVOWED ANIT-COMMUNIST). PIZA IS ALSO ONE OF VISCO'S MOST VEHEMENT PUBLIC CRITICS IN COSTA RICA.

4. PIZA IS FRIENDLY TO THE US, BUT DOES NOT SUPPORT THE US ON ALL  
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THE ISSUES. AT TIMES HE SHOOTS FROM THESLIP. HE IS TENACIOUS IN DEBATE--A GOOD MAN TO HAE ON YOUR SIDE, AND TOUGH IN THE OPPOSITION. POLITICALLY, PIZA IS SLIGHTLY RIGHT OF CENTER.

5. ON DISARMAMENT ISSUES, PIZA IS LARGELY UNLETTERED. HE HAS OPPOSED THE US STANCESON THE NEUTRON BOMB ISSUE, AND MIGHT SPEAK OUT ON IT. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, PIZA IS OPEN MINDED, AND

ANXIOUS FOR INTERCHANGE OF OPINIONS. HE WILL ALSO READ WHAT IS  
GIVEN TO HIM.

6. PIZA DRINKS AND SMOKES, AND ENJOYS A GOOD PARTY. HE LIKES  
AMERICANS, AND HAS GOOD AMERICAN FRIENDS (AND CLIENTS) LOCALLY. HE  
IS WIDELY TRAVELED (EUROPE, ASIA), INCLUDING A 30 DAY IV PROGRAM  
IN 1974 SPONSORED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, AMBASSADORS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS  
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**Decapton Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Review Markings:**  
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